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# ORIGINS OF CHINOOK SALMON IN THE YUKON RIVER FISHERIES, 1995

By

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## **ABSTRACT**

Analysis of scale patterns and age composition ratio analysis of chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* (Walbaum) from Yukon River escapements in Alaska and salmon tagging-study catches in Canada were used to construct classification models for assigning Yukon River District 1 and 2 commercial and subsistence harvests to run of origin. Linear discriminant models were used to estimate stock composition for age-1.3 and -1.4 fish in District 1 and 2 harvests. Observed age composition differences among escapements were used to estimate runs of origin for other age classes. District 3 and 4 commercial and subsistence harvests were assigned to run of origin using the estimated proportions obtained in the analysis of District 2 harvests combined with assignment of Koyukuk River subsistence harvests to the Middle Yukon Run based on geographic occurrence. Runs of origin for all other drainage harvests were estimated based on geographic occurrence. The total estimated Yukon River harvest in 1995 was 198,550 chinook salmon, of which 75% was estimated to be the Upper Yukon Run, 13% the Middle Yukon Run, and 12% the Lower Yukon Run.

#### INTRODUCTION

Yukon River chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* (Walbaum) have historically been harvested in a wide range of fisheries in both marine and fresh waters. Within the Yukon River returning adults are harvested in subsistence fisheries in Alaska, Aboriginal and domestic fisheries in Canada, and commercial and sport fisheries in Alaska and Canada (Figures 1 and 2). Commercial harvests consist of fish sold in the round, numbers of fish contributing to commercial roe production, and fish sold in the round by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) from test fisheries in Districts 1 and 2. Sport fisheries occur primarily in the Tanana River drainage and in Canada. However, small unreported sport fishing harvests are known to occur elsewhere in the Alaska portion of the Yukon River drainage.

In the 20 years after statehood (1960-1979), the total chinook salmon harvest in the Yukon River in both Alaska and Canada ranged from an estimated 77,000 to 170,000 and averaged 123,000 fish annually (JTC 1994). Beginning in 1980, annual harvests increased substantially. During the most recent 5-year period (1990-1994) total annual catches averaged 186,000 fish. While chinook salmon are harvested virtually throughout the length of the Yukon River, the majority of the catch has been taken in commercial gillnet fisheries in Districts 1 and 2. The 1990-94 average commercial harvest in Districts 1 and 2 was 54% of total drainage harvest, and subsistence harvests in the two districts accounted for another 9%. However, most of the subsistence harvest is taken with fish wheels and gillnets in Districts 4, 5, and 6. In 1995, commercial, subsistence, Aboriginal, domestic, and sport fishermen in Alaska and Canada harvested an estimated 198,550 Yukon River chinook salmon, of which 117,564 fish (59.2%) were taken by District 1 and 2 commercial fishermen (Bergstrom et al. 1997).

Chinook salmon harvested in the Yukon River fisheries consist of a mixture of stocks bound for spawning areas throughout the Yukon River drainage. Although more than 100 spawning streams have been documented, aerial surveys of chinook salmon escapements indicate that the largest concentrations of spawners occur in three distinct geographic regions: (1) tributary streams in Alaska that drain the Andreafsky Hills and Kaltag Mountains between river miles 100 and 500, (2) Upper Koyukuk River and Tanana River tributaries in Alaska between river miles 800 and 1,100, and (3) tributary streams in Canada that drain the Pelly and Big Salmon Mountains between river miles 1,300 and 1,800. Chinook salmon stocks within these geographic regions were collectively termed runs by McBride and Marshall (1983) and are now referred to as the Lower, Middle, and Upper Yukon Runs.

Evaluating stock productivities, spawning escapement goals, and management strategies requires information on the stock composition of the harvest. In addition, the U.S. and Canada are engaged in treaty negotiations concerning management and conservation of stocks spawned in Canada. Biological information on these stocks provides the technical basis for the negotiations.

Harvest estimates of western Alaskan and Canadian Yukon River chinook salmon in the Japanese high seas gillnet fisheries were made using scale pattern analysis (SPA; Rogers et al. 1984; Meyers

et al. 1984; Meyers and Rogers 1985). Stock composition of Yukon River fisheries has been studied by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide postseason information for management and conservation of the various runs of chinook salmon. For Yukon River chinook salmon, stock composition estimates derived from scale pattern analysis of the catch through time were first available for 1980 and 1981 District 1 harvests (Schneiderhan 1997). Since then, harvest proportions by geographic region of origin have been estimated annually for the entire drainage (Schneiderhan 1997).

The objective of this study was to estimate the run of origin of all Yukon River chinook salmon harvests for the 1995 season.

#### **METHODS**

Schneiderhan (1997) provides a historical perspective including evolved methodology of SPA from 1981 to 1997 as it has been applied to Yukon River chinook salmon. Current methodology described by Schneiderhan (1997) was employed for the analysis presented here.

Scale samples provided age information for fish in the catch and escapement. Scales were collected from the left side of the fish approximately two rows above the lateral line in an area transected by a diagonal from the posterior insertion of the dorsal fin to the anterior insertion of the anal fin (Clutter and Whitesel 1956). Scales were mounted on gummed cards and impressions made in cellulose acetate. Scale impressions were then projected on a digitizing table at 100X magnification, and scale variables were measured (Figure 3). Measurements were automatically recorded in computer files for later statistical analysis. Ages were reported in European notation.

## Catch Sampling

Scales were collected from commercial catches in all fishing districts except District 3. There were no chinook salmon commercial harvests in District 3 in 1995. Subsistence catches in Districts 4 and 6 were also sampled. For purposes of this report, I assumed that subsistence fishing in Districts 1 and 2 occurred prior to or near the beginning of commercial fishing and could therefore be described using the Period 1 commercial sample data for each district. In addition, samples were collected from salmon harvested by the District 1 ADF&G gillnet test fishing project and from fish captured in fish wheels by the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in Yukon, Canada.

## **Escapement Sampling**

Spawning escapements for the three Yukon River chinook salmon runs were characterized by age composition. Scale samples for age information were collected during the period of peak spawner mortality from the Anvik, Chena, and Salcha Rivers in Alaska. Carcasses were the primary source of samples; however, some samples were obtained from live fish captured with spears or other methods. Live salmon from the Andreafsky River were sampled at a weir project operated by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Chinook salmon in Canadian tributaries were not sampled in 1995; however, the Canadian border passage of chinook salmon was sampled at DFO fish wheel sites prior to entry of the run into Canadian Yukon River fisheries.

Since comparable escapement estimates for the Lower Yukon Run tributaries, i.e., Andreafsky and Anvik Rivers, were not available as weighting factors, the age composition of the Lower Yukon Run was estimated using the pooled Andreafsky and Anvik River samples. The Chena and Salcha River escapements, which are used to characterize the Middle Yukon Run, had abundance estimates of comparable quality that were used as weighting factors in conjunction with sample age compositions to obtain an estimate of age composition for the run. The age composition obtained from samples collected at the two DFO salmon tagging sites was used to characterize the spawning escapement for the Upper Yukon Run.

# Estimation of Catch Composition

Linear discriminant analysis (LDA, Seber 1984) of scale pattern data, observed differences in age composition between escapements, and geographic occurrence of catches were used to estimate runs of origin for 1995 Yukon River chinook salmon catches.

#### RESULTS

## **Escapement Age Composition**

Estimated spawning escapement age compositions of Yukon River chinook salmon in 1995 exhibited some differences (non-statistical comparison) between lower and middle Yukon River escapements (Table 1). The samples listed in Table 1 for the White Rock and Sheep Rock sites are not representative of the spawning escapement, because Canadian fisheries upstream resulted in removal from the sampled population after it passed the sampling sites, and fishwheels are thought to capture chinook salmon selectively. However, no spawning escapement sampling was conducted for upper Yukon River stocks in 1995. Fish wheels operated at the White Rock and Sheep Rock sites provided samples that were imperfectly comparable to the spawning ground samples obtained prior to 1991.

All escapement sample size objectives were achieved. Age-1.4 fish were more abundant than age-1.3 fish in lower, middle and upper Yukon River escapements. This has been noted in other years. The large proportions of age 1.4 from the 1989 brood year that were present in 1995 middle Yukon

River escapements were reflected in large proportions of age 1.3 for the same brood year in 1994 escapements (Schneiderhan 1996).

## Catch Composition

## Scale Pattern Analysis

The scale measurement characters (Appendix A) that were used in distinguishing between the three runs of origin for age 1.3 were (1) variable 15, the distance of circulus 4 to the end of the first freshwater annular zone, (2) variable 111, the total width of marine zones, and (3) variable 66, the total width of the freshwater zone.

The primary distinguishing characters for age 1.4 in order of selection were (1) variable 15, described above, (2) variable 111, described above, and (3) variable 18, the distance from circulus 0 to circulus 8 divided by the distance of the first freshwater annular zone. Variables 12, 82, 1, 8, and 107 were also selected. Variables involving freshwater and freshwater plus growth typically accounted for most of the discriminatory power in both models. Variables selected for the classification model are presented in Appendix B with mean and standard error for each run of origin. Group means and standard errors for the number of circuli and width of the first freshwater annular, plus growth, and marine annular zones are listed in Appendix C.

## Classification Accuracies of Run of Origin Models

A 3-way (Lower, Middle, Upper) classification model was developed using linear discriminant functions (Seber 1984). Classification accuracies were investigated by comparing the true run of origin with that predicted by the model for each scale used in development of the model. The mean classification accuracy of the 3-way, run of origin model for age 1.3 was 72.0%, and for age 1.4 it was 66.0% (Table 2). This is comparable to accuracies normally achieved with 3-way models used in other years. Also, similar to past years, the lower river standard showed the greatest classification accuracy for age 1.4 (71.2%); however, unlike most past years, the upper river standard for age 1.3 showed the highest classification accuracy (81.3%) of the three runs. Upper river standards most often misclassified to the Middle Yukon Run (18.8% for age 1.3 and 26.0% for age 1.4), and middle river standards most often misclassified to the Lower Yukon Run (16.7% for age 1.3 and 22.4% for age 1.4). Historically, the Middle Yukon Run has typically misclassified to the Upper Yukon Run more strongly than to the Lower Yukon Run.

## **Proportion of Catch**

The majority of the commercial chinook salmon catch in Districts 1 and 2 was taken in the first three fishing periods. Upper Yukon Run fish comprised the largest proportion of the District 1 commercial harvest of age-1.3 chinook salmon in periods 1, 2, 4, and 5. Upper run fish comprised the largest proportion of District 1 harvests of age 1.4 in periods 1 - 3 (Table 3). Similarly, in District 2 Upper Yukon Run fish were the largest proportion of the catch of both age 1.3 and 1.4 in all periods (Table 4).

Usually, Upper Yukon Run fish tend to dominate the harvest during the early commercial fishing periods in District 1 and gradually decrease during the later periods. In 1995 this trend was apparent for age 1.4 but not for age 1.3 (Figure 4). Age-1.3 Upper Yukon fish showed a relatively high contribution across the first five periods, except for a drop in period 3. Run contribution estimates for age-1.3 salmon through time in District 1 demonstrated increasing proportions of Lower Yukon fish to the midpoint of the harvest followed by decreasing proportions thereafter, which is unlike most previous years. In terms of numbers of fish caught in District 1 commercial periods (Figure 5, Table 5), generally, more Upper Yukon fish were caught in earlier periods.

In District 2, proportions of Upper Yukon Run fish remained uniformly high throughout the season for both age 1.3 and 1.4 (Figure 6), and the Upper Yukon Run fish dominated catches in numbers of fish for each period (Figure 7).

The estimated District 1 commercial catch of age-1.3 and -1.4 fish combined was 14,489 (20.6%) Lower, 9,578 (13.7%) Middle, and 46,173 (65.7%) Upper Yukon Run (Table 5). In District 2 the estimated age-1.3 and -1.4 combined catch was 3,768 (9.9%) Lower, 2,934 (7.7%) Middle, and 31,419 (82.4%) Upper Yukon Run (Table 6).

## Classification by SPA Analysis

A total of 108,361 age-1.3 and -1.4 fish (54.6% of the total drainage harvest) from District 1 and 2 commercial catches were directly classified to run of origin based on results of scale pattern analysis. Additionally, 30,046 (15.1% of the total drainage harvest) age-1.3 and -1.4 fish caught in Districts 1 and 2 subsistence fisheries and Districts 3 and 4 commercial and subsistence fisheries were indirectly classified based on the scale pattern analysis.

## Classification by Differential Age Composition Analysis

The remaining age classes (0.2, 1.1, 0.3, 1.2, 0.4, 2.2, 2.3, 1.5, 2.4, and 2.5) from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 commercial and subsistence catches contributed 11,697 fish (5.9%) to the total drainage harvest (Table 7). With the exception of 1,505 fish taken in the Koyukuk River subsistence fishery and 434 fish taken in Chandalar River and Black River subsistence fisheries, they were classified to run of origin by applying differences in escapement age composition in each run to classifications derived from the analogous major age class, i.e., age 1.3 or 1.4, through SPA (Schneiderhan 1997).

## Classification by Geographical Analysis

The Koyukuk River subsistence catch of 1,505 fish in District 4 is represented in the numbers of fish reported in the above sections on SPA and age composition analysis; however, the Koyukuk fish were classified to the Middle River Run based on geographical segregation as explained above. Additionally, a total of 48,446 fish (24.4% of total drainage harvest) in Districts 5, 6, and Yukon Territory was classified to run of origin based on geographical segregation. With the exception of Chandalar River subsistence catches, District 5 and Yukon Territory harvests were assumed to be Upper Yukon fish. The Chandalar River subsistence catch in District 5 was classified to the Middle

River Run based on geographical segregation from stocks of the Upper River Run, i.e., Canadian origin. Harvests in District 6 (Table 7) were classified entirely to the Middle Yukon Run based on geographic location of the fisheries.

## **Total Harvest**

All identifiable components of the Yukon River drainage harvest of chinook salmon consisting of 198,550 fish were classified to run of origin (Table 7) based on: (1) findings of the scale pattern analyses of age-1.3 and -1.4 fish in District 1 and 2 commercial catches, (2) age composition analyses of the remaining age classes, (3) assumptions concerning unsampled fisheries, and (4) stock origins based on geographical segregation. Allowing for slight rounding error (<1 fish), the Upper Yukon Run was the largest estimated run component and contributed 148,849 fish or 75.0% of the total drainage harvest. The Middle Yukon Run was next in abundance at 25,830 fish (13.0%), followed by the Lower Yukon Run at 23,870 fish (12.0%).

## **DISCUSSION**

Attainment of sample size objectives presented in the annual sampling plan has been considered to be a fair measure of operational success. For all escapements which contributed to the standard three-way LDF classification model, sample sizes were fair to excellent; however, the low return of age 1.3 chinook salmon and a larger than usual number of undigitizable scales caused smaller than desirable samples of this age class. Acceptable sample quality depends on environmental, biological, and methodological factors. When the expected rejection rate is exceeded, the quantity of acceptable specimens may become problematic. The rejection rate attributed to sampling technique is a key factor in determining sample sizes. In order to optimize sampling effort, sampling technique must also be optimized; therefore, the production of good quality samples continues to be very important.

Proportion of total drainage harvest that was attributed to the Upper Yukon Run in 1995 was higher than any previous year in the study. Table 8 presents a summary of the annual estimates of catch composition as presented in each of the annual reports for this project. Estimates of the Upper Yukon Run component have ranged from 35.4% in 1984 to 74.8% in 1995, with an unweighted average of 58.2% since 1982.

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**TABLES** 

Table 1. Age proportions of Yukon River chinook salmon escapement samples, 1995.

	Brood Year and Age Group													
		1992		1991		1990			1989		1988		1987	_
Location	Sample Size a	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.2	0.4	1.3	2.2	1.4	2.3	1.5	2.4	1.6	2.5
Lower Yukon											_			
Andreafsky River Anvik River	343 404	0.0000 0.0000	0.0000	0.0000 0.0000	0.3499 0.0916	0.0000	0.1574 0.2376	0.0000	0.4752 0.6337	0.0000 0.0000	0.0175 0.0371	0.0000	0.0000 0.0000	0.0000
Average Proportion		0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2208	0.0000	0.1975	0.0000	0.5545	0.0000	0.0273	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Middle Yukon								.—						
Chena River Salcha River	791 546	0.0000 0.0000	0.0000 0.0000	0.0000 0.0000	0.0443 0.1355	0.0000 0.0000	0.2086 0.2051	0.0000 0.0000	0.7092 0.6264	0.0000	0.0341 0.0256	0.0038 0.0073	0.0000 0.0000	0.0000
Average Proportion		0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0899	0.0000	0.2069	0.0000	0.6678	0.0000	0.0299	0.0056	0.0000	0.0000
Upper Yukon (Canada)														
White Rock & Sheep Rock	825	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.2828	0.0000	0.2245	0.0000	0.4612	0.0000	0.0316	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

a Samples from the Anvik, Chena, and Salcha Rivers were collected from carcasses and live spawnouts captured with fish spears. Andreafsky River samples were from live fish captured in a weir trap, and White Rock and Sheep Rock samples were obtained from fish captured in fish wheels.

Table 2. Classification accuracies of linear discriminant run-of-origin models for age-1.3 and -1.4 Yukon River chinook salmon, 1995.

		Classified Run of Origin										
Region of Origin	Sample Size	Lower	Middle	Upper								
Age 1.3				_								
Lower	59	0.644	0.254	0.102								
<u>Middle</u>	54	0.167	0.704	0.130								
<u>Upper</u>	61	0.000	0.188 .	0.813								
	Mean Classification Ac Variables in Analysis:	curacy:	0.720	<u>15, 111, 66</u>								
Age 1.4												
Lower	163	0.712	0.196	0.092								
Middle	210	0.224	0.619	0.157								
<u>Upper</u>	100	0.090	0.26	<u>0.650</u>								
		Mean Classification Accuracy: 0.660  Variables in Analysis: 15, 111, 18, 12, 82, 1, 8, 107										

Table 3. Maximum likelihood run composition estimates for age-1.3 and -1.4 chinook salmon commercial catches in Yukon River District 1, 1995.

		Run- of- Origin			Age	1.3	Age 1.4						
Commercial Fishing Period	Dates		N	Р	S.E.	Simultaneous 90% Cl a	N	Р	S.E.	Simultaneous 90% CI a			
1	6/14-15	Lower Middle Upper	2 4 9	0.173 0.131 0.696	0.165 0.234 0.184	0.000 < P < 0.525 0.000 < P < 0.629 0.303 < P < 1.000	10 16 74	0.003 0.000 0.997	0.044 0.000 0.044	0.000 < P < 0.097 0.000 < P < 0.000 0.903 < P < 1.000			
2	6/17-18	Lower Middle Upper	4 0 10	0.327 0.000 0.673	0.138 0.000 0.138	0.033 < P < 0.620 0.000 < P < 0.000 0.380 < P < 0.967	19 30 51	0.132 0.135 0.733	0.074 0.120 0.100	0.000 < P < 0.288 0.000 < P < 0.390 0.520 < P < 0.947			
<sup>1</sup> 3	6/21	Lower Middle Upper	6 6 3	0.532 0.343 0.125	0.252 0.272 0.149	0.000 < P < 1.000 0.000 < P < 0.921 0.000 < P < 0.443	15 36 48	0.036 0.295 0.670	0.070 0.127 0.102	0.000 < P < 0.184 0.025 < P < 0.565 0.453 < P < 0.887			
4	6/24	Lower Middle Upper	1 1 4	0.243 0.000 0.757	0.213 0.000 0.213	0.000 < P < 0.697 0.000 < P < 0.000 0.303 < P < 1.000	30 31 39	0.297 0.192 0.512	0.086 0.119 0.097	0.113 < P < 0.480 0.000 < P < 0.445 0.306 < P < 0.717			
5	6/28	Lower Middle Upper	2 1 3	0.477 0.000 0.523	0.253 0.000 0.253	0.000 < P < 1.000 0.000 < P < 0.000 0.000 < P < 1.000	41 32 27	0.461 0.249 0.290	0.094 0.118 0.087	0.261 < P < 0.662 0.000 < P < 0.500 0.104 < P < 0.476			

a Simultaneous confidence intervals are calculated as  $p \pm ((z_{(alpha/2k)})(S.E. of p))$ , where k=3 and  $z_{(alpha/2k)}=2.128$ .

Table 4. Maximum likelihood run composition estimates for age-1.3 and -1.4 chinook salmon commercial catches in Yukon River District 2, 1995.

·		Run- of- Origin			Age	1.3	Age 1.4					
Commercial Fishing Period	Dates		N	Р	S.E.	Simultaneous 90% Cla	N	Р	S.E.	Simultaneous 90% Cl a		
1	6/16-17	Lower Middle Upper	3 1 6	0.391 0.000 0.609	0.182 0.000 0.182	0.005 < P < 0.778 0.000 < P < 0.000 0.222 < P < 0.995	11 24 46	0.050 0.110 0.840	0.072 0.134 0.111	0.000 < P < 0.204 0.000 < P < 0.395 0.603 < P < 1.000		
2	6/20-21	Lower Middle Upper	1 4 5	0.050 0.405 0.545	0.191 0.316 0.232	0.000 < P < 0.456 0.000 < P < 1.000 0.050 < P < 1.000	19 21 42	0.222 0.029 0.750	0.085 0.126 0.109	0.040 < P < 0.403 0.000 < P < 0.296 0.517 < P < 0.983		
3	6/25	Lower Middle Upper	2 3 6	0.221 0.203 0.577	0.186 0.158 0.207	0.000 < P < 0.617 0.000 < P < 0.539 0.136 < P < 1.000	9 29 62	0.000 0.060 0.940	0.000 0.099 0.099	0.000 < P < 0.000 0.000 < P < 0.270 0.730 < P < 1.000		
4	6/27	Lower Middle Upper	2 3 6	0.221 0.203 0.577	0.186 0.158 0.207	0.000 < P < 0.617 0.000 < P < 0.539 0.136 < P < 1.000	12 25 64	0.043 0.030 0.927	0.027 0.049 0.076	0.000 < P < 0.100 0.000 < P < 0.135 0.765 < P < 1.000		
4	6/27	Lower Middle Upper	2 3 6	0.221 0.203 0.577	0.186 0.158 0.207	0.000 < P < 0.617 0.000 < P < 0.539 0.136 < P < 1.000	15 20 65	0.085 0.000 ,0.915	0.054 0.000 0.054	0.000 < P < 0.201 0.000 < P < 0.000 0.799 < P < 1.000		

a Simultaneous confidence intervals are calculated as  $p \pm ((z_{(alpha/2k)})(S.E. of p))$ , where k=3 and  $z_{(alpha/2k)}=2.128$ .

Table 5. Classification of age-1.3 and -1.4 chinook salmon catches by run and fishing period for the commercial fishery in Yukon River District 1, 1995.

Commercial	Dates and	Region	Age Gro	oup	
Fishing Period	Mesh Size	of Origin	1.3	1.4	Total
1	6/12-13 Unrestricted	Lower Middle Alaska Upper	264 200 464 1,062	50 0 50 16,021	314 200 514 17,083
2	6/15-16 Unrestricted	Total Lower Middle Alaska	1,526 823 0 823	16,071 1,762 1,802 3,564	17,597 2,585 1,802 4,387
_		Upper Total	1,697 2,520	9,804 13,368	11,501 15,888
3	6/19 Unrestricted	Lower Middle Alaska Upper Total	517 333 849 121 970	182 1,513 1,695 3,435 5,131	699 1,846 2,544 3,557 6,101
4	6/22-23 Unrestricted	Lower Middle Alaska Upper Total	469 0 469 1,462 1,931	45,129 3,318 8,447 8,855 17,297	5,598 3,318 8,916 10,317 19,228
5	6/26-27 Unrestricted	Lower Middle Alaska Upper Total	700 0 700 768 1,468	4,119 2,223 6,341 2,589 8,930	4,818 2,223 7,041 3,357 10,398
6	6/27 Restricted	Lower Middle Alaska Upper Total	12 0 12 13 24	21 11 33 13 46	33 11 44 26 70
7	6/28-29 Restricted	Lower Middle Alaska Upper Total	89 0 89 97 186	183 99 281 115 396	271 99 370 212 582
8-11	6/30-7/7 Restricted	Lower Middle Alaska Upper Total	24 0 24 26 50	147 79 227 93 319	171 79 250 119 369
District 1 Season Tota		Lower Middle Alaska Upper Total	2,897 532 3,429 5,247 8,676	11,593 9,045 20,638 40,926 61,564	14,489 9,578 24,067 46,173 70,240

Table 6. Classification of age-1.3 and -1.4 chinook salmon catches by run and fishing period for the commercial fishery in Yukon River District 2, 1995.

	Dates		Age Gr	oup	
Commercia		Region			
Fishing Period	Mesh Size	of Origin	1.3	1.4	<u>To</u> tal
1	6/11-12	Lower	285	521	806
		Middle	0	1,146	1,146
	Unrestricted	Alaska	285	1,667	1,952
		Upper	443	8,779	9,222
		Total	728	10,419	11,147
2	6/14	Lower	60	1,658	1,719
		Middle	486	213	699
	Unrestricted	Alaska	547	1,871	2,418
		Upper	653	5,605	6,258
		Total	1,200	7,476	8,676
3	6/18	Lower	299	0	299
		Middle	274	487	761
	Unrestricted	Alaska	574	487	1,060
		Upper	781	7,595	8,377
		Total	1,355	8,082	9,437
4	6/19	Lower	61	· 19	80
		Middle	56	13	69
	Restricted	Alaska	117	32	149
		Upper	159	414	573
		Total	275	447	722
5	6/21-22	Lower	281	583	865
		Middle	258	0	258
	Unrestricted	Alaska	540	583	1,123
		Upper	735	6,255	6,990
		Total	1,275	6,838	8,113
District 2		Lower	987	2,782	3,768
Season Tota	al	Middle	1,074	1,859	2,934
		Alaska	2,061	4,641	6,702
		Upper	2,771	28,648	31,419
		Total	4,833 	33,289	38,121

Table 7. Total commercial and subsistence catch of chinook salmon by age class and run in Yukon River Districts 1-6 and Canada, 1995.

		-						Brood Ye	ar and Aç	ge Group						
	Fishery		1992 1991				1990		198	9	198	8	1987			
District		Run of Origin	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.2	0.4	1.3	2.2	1.4	2.3	1.5	2.4	1.6	2.5	Total
1	Commercial	Lower	0	0	0	787	0	2,897	0	11,593	21	459	0	12	0	15,76
	Gillnet	Middle	0	0	0	56	0	532	0	9,045	16	325	203	9	0	10,18
		Alaska	0	0	0	843	0	3,429	0	20,638	37	783	203	21	0	25,95
		Upper	Ó	Ó	0	1,608	0	5,247	0	40,926	74	2,252	0	43	0	50,150
		Total	0	0	0	2,451	0	8,676	0	61,564	1111	3,035	203	65	0	76,10
_	Subsistence	Lower	0	0	0	41	0	223	0	1,323	5	29	0	0	0	1,62
	Gillnet <sub>b</sub>	Middle	0	0	0	3	0	41	0	1,032	4	21	0	0	0	1,10
		Alaska	0	0	0	44	0	264	0	2,355	8	50	0	0	0	2,72
		Upper	0	0	0	84	0	403	0	4,670	16	143	0	0	0	5,31
		Total a	0	0	0	129	0	667	0	7,025	24	193	0	0	0	8,03
2	Commercial	Lower	0	9	0	425	0	987	0	2,782	12	64	0	0	0	4,27
	Gillnet	Middle	0	10	0	181	0	1,074	0	1,859	8	39	193	0	0	3,36
		Alaska	0	18	0	601	0	2,061	0	4,641	20	101	193	0	0	7,64
		Upper	0	25	0	1,343	0	2,771	0	28,648	121	907	0	0	0	33,81
		Total	0	43	0	1,949	0	4,833	0	33,289	141	1,010	193	0	0	41,45
	Subsistence	Lower	0	0	0	32	0	112	0	654	4	28	0	0	0	82
	Gillnet a	Middle	0	0	0	13	0	122	0	437	3	17	100	0	0	69:
		Alaska	0	0	0	45	0	233	0	1,091	6	45	100	0	0	1,52
		Upper	0	0	0	101	0	314	0	6,735	39	401	0	0	0	7,59
		Total c	0	0	0	146	0	547	0	7,826	46	446	100	0	0	9,11
3	Commercial	Lower	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
	Gillnet a	Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
		Upper	0	0	0	0	0	0	. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
_		Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
	Subsistence	Lower	0	0	0	18	0	64	0	377	2	16	0	0	0	47
	Gillnet d	Middle	0	0	0	8	0	70	0	252	1	10	58	0	0	39
		Alaska	0	0	0	26	0	135	0	630	4	26	58	0	0	87
		Upper	0	0	0	58	0	181	0	3,887	23	232	0	0	0	4,38
		Total	0	0	0	84	0	315	0	4,517	26	258	58	0	0	5,25
4	Commercial &	Lower	0	2	0	88	0	205	0	579	2	13	0	0	0	89
	Subsistence	Middle	0	2	0	67	0	488	0	1,338	7	45	258	0	0	2,20
	GN & FW و	Alaska	0	4	0	155	0	693	0	1,917	10	58	258	0	0	3,09
		Upper	0	5	0	280	, 0	577	0	5,963	25	189	0	0	0	7,03
		Total	0	9	0	435	0	1,270	0	7,879	, 35	247	258	0	0	10,13

-Continued-

			Brood Year and Age Group													
			1992		1991		1990			1989		1988		1987		
District	Fishery	Run of Origin	0.2	1.1	0.3	1.2	0.4	1.3	2.2	1.4	2.3	1.5	2.4	1.6	2.5	Total
5	Commercial & Subsistence GN & FW r	Middle Alaska Upper Total	0 0 0 0	2 2 69 70	0 0 0 0	44 44 1,988 2,032	0 0 0	240 240 10,900 11,140	0 0 0	129 129 5,827 5,955	0 0 0 0	20 20 891 911	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0	434 434 19,674 20,108
6	Commercial & Subsistence GN & FW s	Middle	0	414	0	1,076	0	3,187	0	2,608	0	166	0	0	0	7,450
Canada h	Commercial GN & FW	Upper	0	335	12	1,219	24	6,355	12	2,760	36	323	60	0	12	11,146
_	Non-commercial	Upper	0	292	10	1,065	21	5,554	10	2,412	31	282	52	0	10	9,741
TOTAL HA	ARVEST	Lower Middle <b>Alaska</b> Upper	0 0	11 427 438 725	0 0 0 22	1,392 1,448 2,840 7,745	0 0 0 45	4,488 5,754 10,242 32,304	0 0 0 22	17,308 16,699 34,007 101,828	46 39 84 365	609 642 1,251 5,620	0 813 813 112	12 9 21 43	0 0 0 22	23,864 25,832 49,696 148,854
		Total	0	1,163	22	10,585	45	42,546	22	135,835	450	6,871	925	64	22	198,550

a Includes 2,078 fish from ADF&G test fisheries.

ь Run composition is based on District 1, period 1 commercial catch samples.

clincludes 74 fish from ADF&G test fisheries.

d Run composition based on District 2, period 1 commercial catch samples.

c Gillnet and fish wheel catches combined. Commercial catch = 262 fish, commercial related catch = 237, and subsistence catch = 8,130. The Koyukuk River subsistence catch (1,505) was assigned to the Middle River Run (see METHODS). ▶

Gillnet and fish wheel catches combined. Commercial catch = 3,242 and subsistence catch = 16,432 plus 434 from the Chandalar and Black Rivers.

g Gillnet and fish wheel catches combined. Data includes 1,660 commercial, 1,087 commercial related, 1,779 subsistence, 399 personal use, and 2,525 sport harvest.

h Run and age composition are based on Canada DFO tagging study fish wheel samples. Harvest components include commercial (11,146), Canadian Aboriginal fishery (9,041), and sport (700) harvests.

Table 8. Harvest percentages by run of the total Yukon River harvest of chinook salmon, 1982-95.

	Lower		Upper	
Year	Run 	Run	Run	
1982	13.5	23.7	62.8	-
1983	12.4	36.8	50.8	
1984	29.0	35.6	35.4	
1985	30.9	19.5	49.6	
1986	26.5	5.6	67.9	
1987	16.5	17.3	66.2	
1988	27.2	11.3	61.4	
1989	25.7	15.9	58.4	
1990	19.3	22.2	58.5	
1991	26.1	29.0	44.9	•
1992	17.5	23.2	59.3	
1993	22.3	13.2	64.6	
1994	16.1	24.4	59.6	
1995	12.0	13.1	74.9	
1982-95 Avg	21.1	20.8	58.2	
1991-95 Avg	18.8	20.6	60.7	

**FIGURES** 

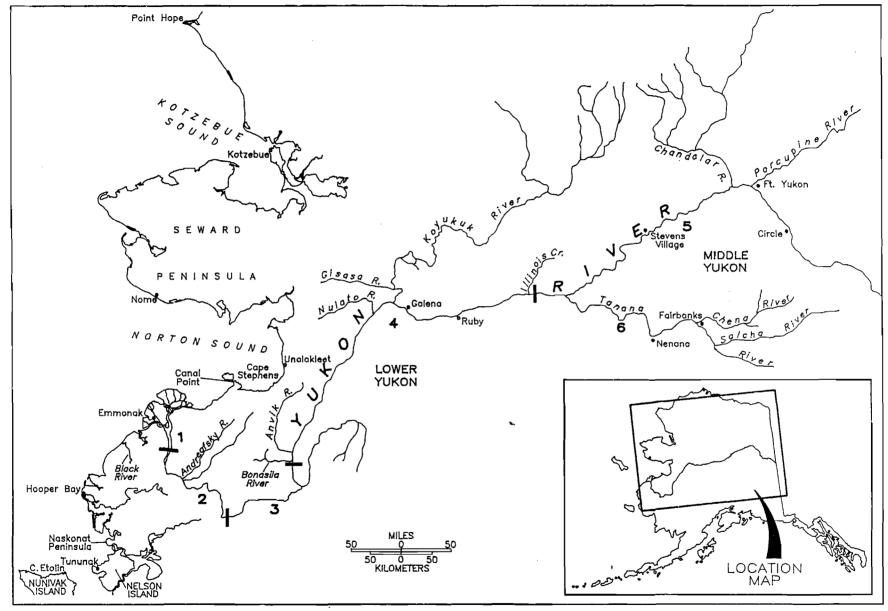


Figure 1. Alaskan portion of the Yukon River with fishing district boundaries.

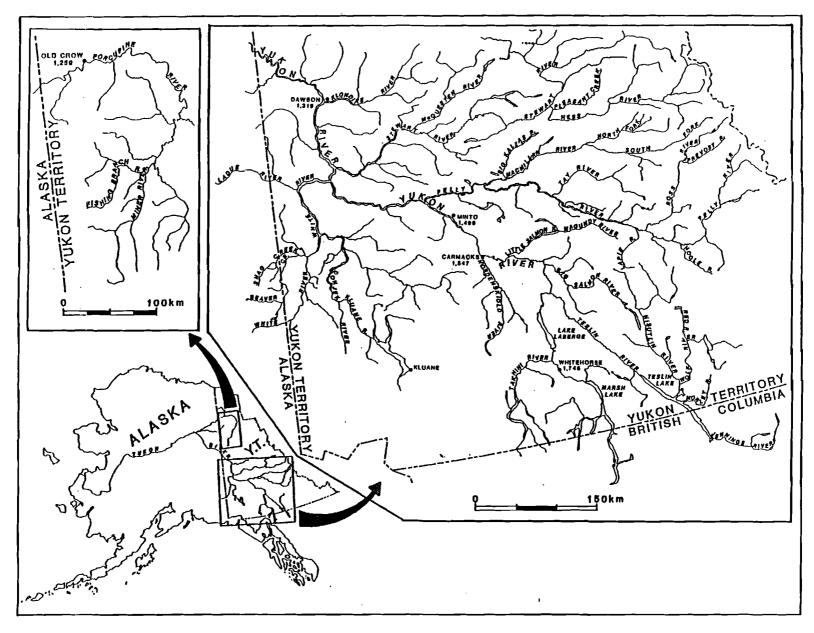


Figure 2. Canadian portion of the Yukon River drainage.

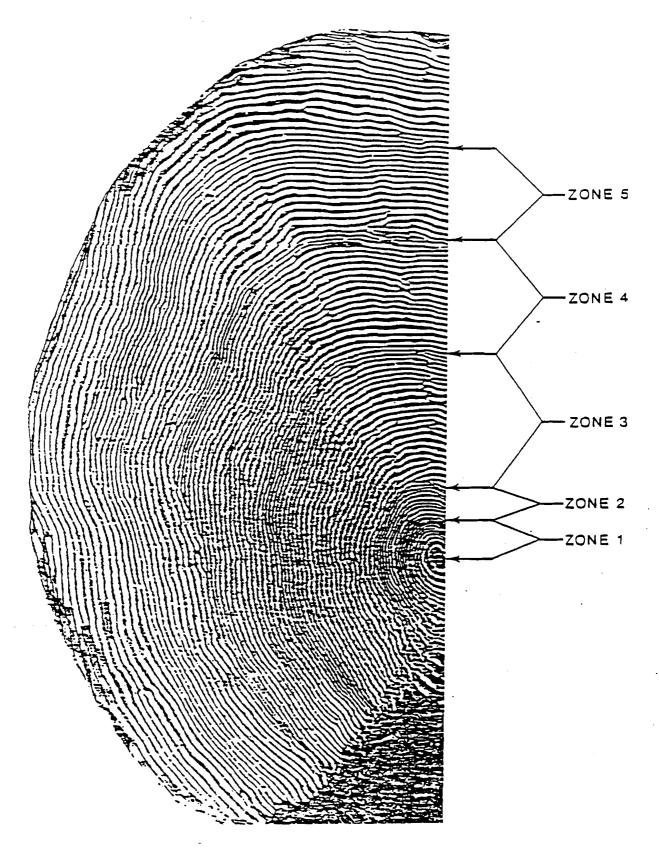


Figure 3. Age-1.4 chinook salmon scale showing zones measured for linear discriminant analysis.

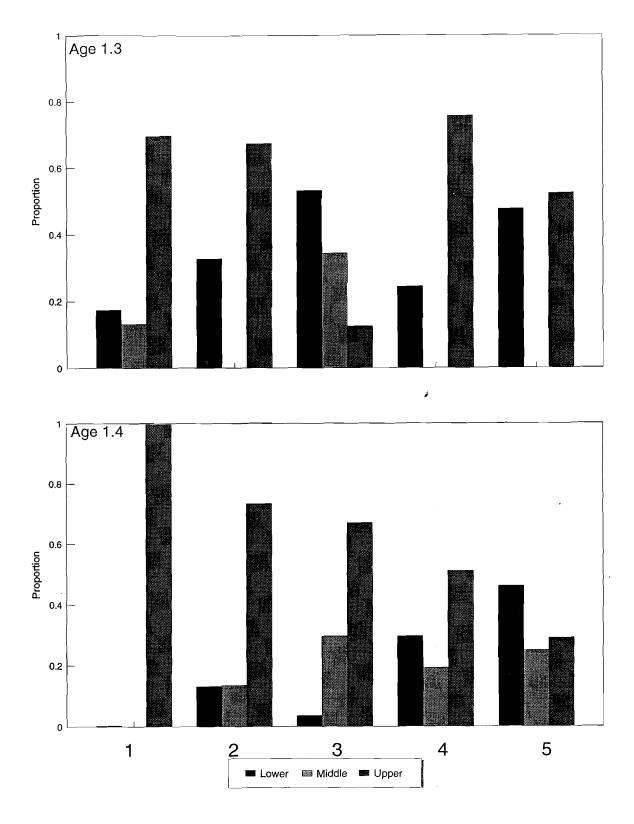


Figure 4. Estimated proportion of catch by period (all periods unrestricted mesh size) and run from scale pattern analysis of age-1.3 and -1.4 chinook salmon, Yukon River District 1, 1995.

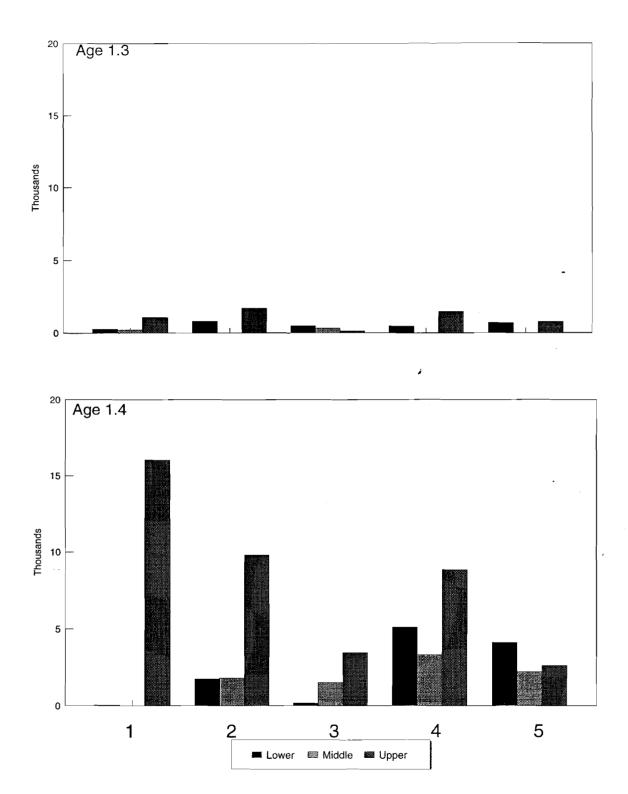


Figure 5. Estimated catch by period (all periods unrestricted mesh size) and run in numbers of fish from scale pattern analysis of age-1.3 and -1.4 chinook salmon, Yukon River District 1, 1995.

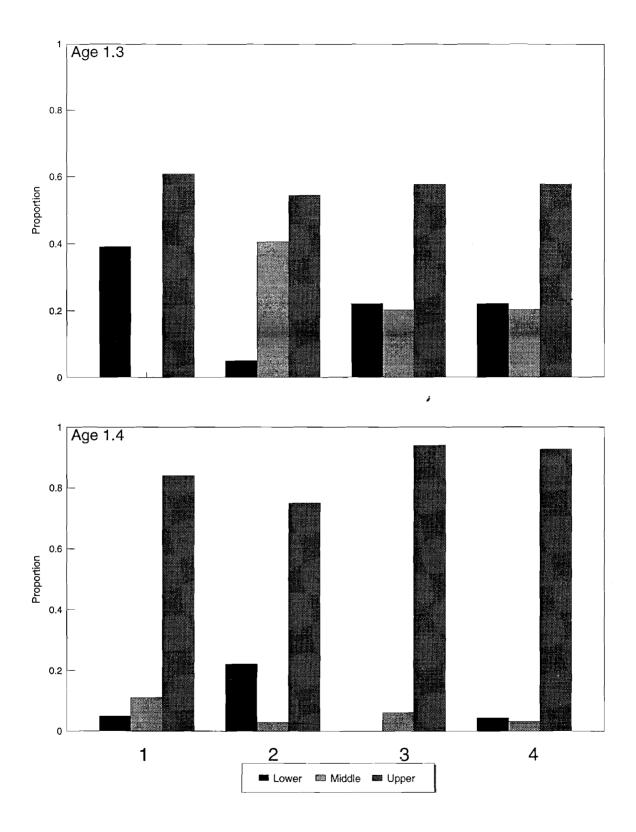
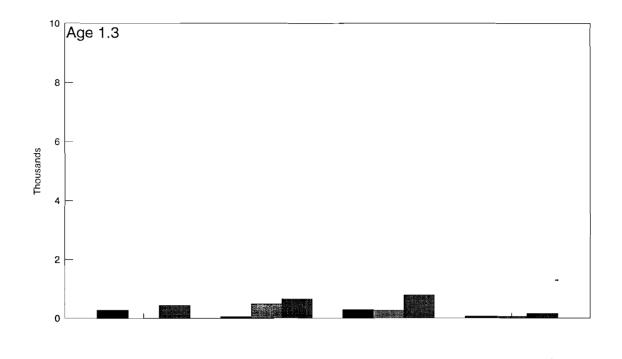


Figure 6. Estimated proportion of catch by period (all periods unrestricted mesh size) and run from scale pattern analysis of age-1.3 and -1.4 chinook salmon, Yukon River District 2, 1995.



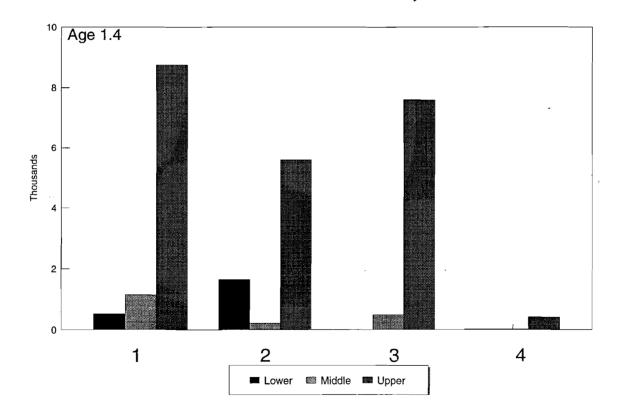


Figure 7. Estimated catch by period (all periods unrestricted mesh size) and run in numbers of fish from scale pattern analysis of age-1.3 and -1.4 chinook salmon, Yukon River District 2, 1995.

APPENDIX

Appendix A. Scale variables screened for linear discriminant function analysis of age-1.3 and -1.4 Yukon River chinook salmon, 1995.

Variable	1st Freshwater Annular Zone	
1	Number of Circuli (NC1FW) <sup>a</sup>	_
2	Width of Zone (S1FW) <sup>b</sup>	
3 (16)	Distance, scale focus (C0) to circulus 2 (C2)	
4	Distance, C0-C4	
5 (18)	Distance, C0-C6	
6	Distance, C0-C8	
7 (20)	Distance, C2-C4	
8	Distance, C2-C6	
9 (22)	Distance, C2-C8	
10	Distance, C4-C6	
11 (24)	Distance, C4-C8	
12	Distance, C(NC1FW -4) to end of zone	
13 (26)	Distance, C(NC1FW -2) to end of zone	
14	Distance, C2 to end of zone	
15	Distance, C4 to end of zone	
16-26	Relative widths, (variables 3-13)/S1FW	
27	Average interval between circuli, S1FW/NC1FW	
28	Number of circuli in first 3/4 of zone	
29	Maximum distance between 2 consecutive circuli	
30	Relative width, (variable 29)/S1FW	
Variable	Freshwater Plus Growth	
<u></u>	Niverbour of Circuit: (NICDC)6	_
61 62	Number of Circuli (NCPG) <sup>c</sup> Width of Zono (SDGZ) <sup>d</sup>	
62	Width of Zone $(SPGZ)^d$	
/ariable	All Freshwater Zones	_
65	Total number of freshwater circuli (NC1FW+NCPG)	
66	Total width of freshwater zone (S1FW+SPGZ)	
67	Relative width, S1FW/(S1FW+SPGZ)	

-Continued-

Variable 	1st Marine Annular Zone	
70	Number of circuli (NC1OZ) <sup>e</sup>	
71	Width of zone (S1OZ) <sup>f</sup>	
72 (90)	Distance, end of freshwater growth (EFW) to C3	
73	Distance, EFW-C6	
74 (92)	Distance, EFW-C9	
75	Distance, EFW-C12	
76 (94)	Distance, EFW-C15	
77	Distance, C3-C6	_
78 (96)	Distance, C3-C9	
79	Distance, C3-C12	
80 (98)	Distance, C3-C15	
81	Distance, C6-C9	_
82 (100)	Distance, C6-C12	
83	Distance, C6-C15	
84 (102)	Distance, C(NC1OZ -6) to end of zone	
85	Distance, C(NC1OZ -3) to end of zone	
86 (104)	Distance, C3 to end of zone	
87	Distance, C9 to end of zone	
88	Distance, C15 to end of zone	
90-104	Relative widths, (variables 73-86)/S1OZ	•
105	Average interval between circuli, S1OZ/NC1OZ	
106	Number of circuli in first 1/2 of zone	
107	Maximum distance between 2 consecutive circuli	
108	Relative width, (variable 107)/S1OZ	
Variable	All Marine Zones	
100	Width of 2nd Marina Jana (\$207)	
109	Width of 2nd Marine zone, (S2OZ)	
110	Width of 3rd Marine zone, (S3OZ) Total width of marine zones (S1OZ+S2OZ+S3OZ)	
111 112	(,	
112	Relative width, S1OZ/(S1OZ+S2OZ+S3OZ) Relative width, S2OZ/(S1OZ+S2OZ+S3OZ)	

-Continued-

# Appendix A. (Page 3 of 3)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Number of circuli, 1st freshwater zone.
<sup>b</sup> Size (axial length) 1st freshwater zone.
<sup>c</sup> Number of circuli, plus growth zone.
<sup>d</sup> Size (axial length) plus growth zone.
<sup>e</sup> Number of circuli, 1st ocean zone.

f Size (axial length) 1st ocean zone.

30

Appendix B. Group means, standard errors, and one-way analysis of variance F-statistic for scale variables selected for use in linear discriminant models of age-1.3 and -1.4 Yukon River chinook salmon runs, 1995.

		Low	er	Mid	dle	Upper		
Growth Zone	Variable	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	
Age-1.3								
1st FW Annular	15	75.51	3.04	75.50	2.46	113.38	4.90	
All Freshwater	66	186.95	2.67	173.82	3.04	214.38	6.56	
All Marine	111	1033.19	24.32	892.50	15.71	821.75	22.97	
Age-1.4								
1st FW Annular	1	12.12	0.18	12.85	0.13	14.81	0.16	
	8	44.94	0.52	41.48	0.47		Mean SE  113.38 4.90 214.38 6.56 821.75 22.97	
	12 15	39.44 78.49	0.55 1.78	43.54 89.88	0.51 1.52			
	18	0.64	0.01	0.57	< 0.01			
1st Marine Annular	82	115.29	1.20	120.37	1.04	131.34	1.46	
	107	29.25	0.31	27.66	0.25	29.00	0.38	
All Marine	111	1344.86	10.49	1239.89	9.32	1249.00	11.10	

Appendix C. Group means, standard errors, and one-way analysis of variance F-statistic for the number of circuli and incremental distance of salmon scale growth zone measurements from age-1.3 and -1.4 Yukon River chinook salmon runs, 1995.

	Description	Lo	ower	Mi	ddle	Upper		
Growth Zone Variabl		Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	F-Value
Age-1.3								
1st FW Annular 1 2	No. Circ. Distance	11.695 157.780	0.300 2.490	11.833 147.593	0.227 2.837	14.563 185.938	0.418 6.192	13.985 21.461
Total FW Growth 61 62	No. Circ Distance	2.237 29.169	0.065 0.707	2.074 26.222	0.036 0.738	2.250 28.438	0.112 1.663	2.553 4.025
1st Ocean Ann. 70 71	No. Circ. Distance	29.237 559.729	1.002 18.569	25.778 468.704	0.685 12.135	21.563 427.250	0.555 11.124	10.976 13.309
2nd Ocean Ann. 109	Distance	473.458	11.970	423.796	11.694	394.500	17.992	7.373
Age-1.4								
1st FW Annular 1 2	No. Circ. Distance	12.117 155.313	0.173 1.872	12.852 162.995	0.128 1.593	14.810 190.460	0.163 2.265	59.419 74.106
Total FW Growth 61 62	No. Circ. Distance	2.184 29.319	0.037 0.595	2.219 30.595	0.029 0.488	2.250 31.540	0.044 0.704	0.725 3.111
1st Ocean Ann. 70 71	No. Circ. Distance	26.816 509.871	0.265 5.092	24.505 458.781	0.219 4.639	23.610 466.080	0.271 5.893	38.875 30.651
2nd Ocean Ann. 109	Distance	383.327	4.244	359.257	3.564	373.990	5.668	9.485
3rd Ocean Ann. 110	Distance	459.652	4.871	421.852	4.424	408.930	4.612	27.565